

## *Programme Area Summary*

**Country:** Kenya

**Programme Area:** Disability 2005-2010

### **What is the aim of the programme area?**

To improve participation and active involvement of people with disabilities in the economic and socio-political life of Kenyan society.

### **Why is VSO working in this particular programme area and region?**

It is estimated that 1.3 million children in Kenya between the ages of 0-15 years have disabilities. Through Children with Disabilities Empowerment Programme (CDEP) a steady number of children with disabilities (CWDs) continue to be identified, assessed and most of them placed. Over 2700 were identified in the last year. VSO has long experience of working with partner organisations in Kenya through which it has identified the following needs:

- Limited number of special schools and Special Needs Units
- Enrolment in school of CWDs (especially girls) was very low
- Some teacher and service providers were inadequately trained
- Organisation and management of schools was weak
- Communities were not adequately involved in rehabilitation
- Lack of policies and support for CWDs
- Advocacy efforts by National Disability Association was limited
- Limited information on the extent, nature and status of CWDs in Kenya.

### **Key beneficiaries and partners**

The key beneficiaries are men, women and children with disabilities, focusing on twenty districts.

The programme has strong partnerships with:

- Educational Assessment Resource Centres (EARCs)
- Ministry Headquarters
- Other development agencies such as Action Aid, Amref, and United Disabled People of Kenya (UDPK)
- National Rehabilitation Centres

### **Key objectives of the programme**

- Community-Based Rehabilitation: developing community capacity for supporting People with Disabilities (PWDs) through community-based approaches.
- Economic Empowerment of families of PWDs by building their capacity to start, manage and sustain Income Generating Activities.
- Increase access of children and youth with disabilities to education and training in their communities.
- Strengthening the capacity of Disabled Person's Organizations at national and grassroots levels and support and advocate for the development and implementation of enabling policies and legislation.
- Support public information on the rights of PWDs through research, information packaging and dissemination using professional marketing approaches in information disseminations and media campaigns among other approaches.
- Increase PWDs' access to services and information on HIV/AIDS.

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### **Current programme activities**

#### *Focus of International Volunteer Placements*

There are 8 international volunteers in Disability in Kenya currently. They are as:

- Speech therapists – one is working in CDEP to build the partners' capacity while another is attached to the Association of the Physically Disabled in Kenya (APDK)
- Special education Assessment trainer – attached to the Kenya Institute of Special Education to support curriculum development
- Finance manager- Attached to the African Union for the Blind
- Programme co-ordinator – Attached to the NGOCAP
- Autism trainer – Attached to Kenya Institute of Special Education to support curriculum development and roll out
- Physiotherapist –Attached to Dagoretti Children's home
- Vocational training manager – attached to Machakos APDK School and is supporting in product design

#### *Workshops, training & conferences*

- A national Trainer of Trainers (ToT) speech and language workshop was held in March 2007 in which 50 ToTs were trained. It was facilitated by 5 VSO volunteers; speech and language specialists supported by Autism specialists. This will have a multiplier effect as District ToT training is effected in 20 Districts each training 20 teachers.
- A national ToT Autism workshop held had 40 ToT and over 200 teachers have since been trained in the Districts. This was facilitated by an autism specialist VSO volunteer. As a result each of the 10 core Districts have with the volunteer's support established an autism programme. Concerted efforts are being made to make Kitui special school the model autism unit in Kenya.
- An EARC partnering workshop took place in September 06 and provided a good opportunity for sharing learning and agreed on targets and strategies for mainstreaming HIV & AIDS, gender and advocacy. There were over 55 participants drawn from the EARCS and various Government ministries.

#### *Advocacy and Global Education*

- CDEP has invested considerably in developing the capacity of the United Disabled persons of Kenya (UDPK), the umbrella organization for DPOs, to advocate for the rights of PWDs. The interventions were informed by findings and recommendations made by 2 VSO volunteers placed in UDPK. They identified gaps in the organization's constitution and structures. The capacity building has been through CDEP funded workshops. UDPK has developed financial management, human resource systems and have reviewed their constitution. Their capacity to advocate has been greatly enhanced to carry out advocacy programmes on disability.
- CDEP participated in and financially supported development of a national policy on disability and the education policy as well. EARCs and the CBRs continue to lobby for the support of CWDs in all forums at the District level including posting of teachers in special education programmes.

#### *Partner exchange visits/study tours*

- CDEP organized a LINKS exchange tour for EARC Co-ordinators and CDEP partners to the UK in July 2006. There were 15 participants who visited special needs organizations and shared experiences and learning, which they continue to implement.
- EARCs and CBRs have ongoing exchange visits among the Districts funded by CDEP.

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### *Providing grants and/or equipment for partners e.g. small grants fund*

- CDEP provides assistive equipment to PWDs with a target of 100 receiving various equipment a year enabling children to attend school and carry out their activities of daily living.
- CDEP has also supported upgrading of EARCs and some special needs programmes.
- CDEP is partnering K-REP micro-finance institution (MFI) to improve livelihoods and support of CWDs. Business training has been conducted for the CBRs in the 10 Districts and as a result savings mobilized in the community. Loans amounting to approximately Ksh 860,000 have been disbursed directly by the MFI and small grants of over Ksh 500,000 given by CDEP.

### *Development of publications or other materials for training or communication*

- CDEP has developed lots of training manuals for training and information sharing. They have been tested during the ToT trainings and CDEP is preparing to publish a number of them including: an Autism manual, speech and language manual, manual on the mentally handicapped, school management manual among others.

### *Other partnership activities*

- CDEP implements all its disability work within the established Government of Kenya's structures and institutions so the Government ministries are the key partners among other disabled person's organizations.

### **What makes VSO's work in this programme area special?**

VSO Jitolee has developed credibility in disability work as it has gained considerable experience in this area and is seen by government and NGOs as a strong partner in Disability. This has included working on the UN Convention on the Rights of Disabled People as part of the Kenyan delegation.